

Minutes for the Arlington Bicycle Committee Meeting of August 4, 2008

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Christopher Tonkin, Ted Packard, Jeff Roth, and Scott Smith. Stephen Quinn, Caitlin Shan, David Watson, Karen Hamel, Doug Greenfield, and Joey Glushko were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30.

Introductions and stories. David, who is Executive Director of MassBike, told us about their efforts to supply valet bicycle parking at major public events.

*The minutes from the June meeting were approved with one correction.

Review of recent events, including local Bicycling Skills classes held in Arlington, local and national publicity on Minuteman Bikeway's hall of fame induction, etc. Jack told us that Bicycle Skills classes in Arlington were oversubscribed. There were about 30 in attendance, including instructors. Classes offered were classroom session on bicycling safety skills as well as an on-road class. The on-road class had an attendance of about 16 students.

Jack also told us that the Minuteman Bikeway hall of fame induction has gotten tremendous publicity. Stephan asked to discuss the recent news about the New York Critical Mass ride. Joey asked for a general explanation of Critical Mass rides. David give us an explanation.

Brief discussion of local (and national) increase in bicycle commuting this year. We discussed the fact that bike commuting is increasing both nationally and locally, and public and private bicycle facilities are being strained. New bike commuters are ignoring the rules of the road and causing chaos. David told us about the MassBike outreach to educate bicyclists and attract new members.

Discussion and planning for ABAC's Town Day booth in September. Jack will contact Andy Rubel to get bike maps to sell. Ted will responsible for moving the table and the banner to the site. Christopher will be out of town. We discussed whether we will have a theme this year for the booth. We will have a setup similar to the one we had last year. Doug will make up a special commuting and general biking map of Arlington that we will display at our table. The map will also be available as a free handout. We spent some time also discussing the nature of the annotation we would like on the map. Ron asked Doug to email the maps to us for comments before final publication.

Updates on Minuteman Bikeway Multi-Community Celebration (for Hall of Fame honor) now planned for Sunday, October 5, 12:00-4:00pm. The current plan is for a rolling festival along the bikeway. Our part of the festival will take place at the Jefferson-Cutter House. There will also be receptions in Lexington and Bedford. The Cambridge reception will be at the end of the bikeway at Alewife.

Joey told us that there will be a fundraising event that we are all requested to participate in. Joey also asked for permission to use ABAC money to pay expenses. Jack told us that it has been decided that we will not sell T-shirts but will give out bookmarks. We will also have a banner made. Joey discussed the guests who would be specially invited, including Anne Paulsen and others. There will be signs along the bikeway announcing the event. *We decided to allocate \$500-700 to pay for the event. The money will (hopefully) be replaced by the fund raising effort. We decided to keep the event simple and easy.

Brief update from Minuteman Bikeway webmaster regarding email addresses. Jack told us that there was a problem with the email address on the Minuteman Bikeway web site so the account had to be deleted.

Brief discussion on contact listings for the ABAC web site and handling email correspondence. Jack checked again with us about having our email addresses on the ABAC web site. Jack reminded us to cc everyone on the executive board when answering an inquiry to the web site.

Discussion of bicycling issues on sidewalks in Arlington. We discussed the problem of riding on our sidewalks, especially in Arlington Center. Ron proposed that the Town's bylaws are vague and should be rewritten. We decided that it would be best to concentrate on eliminating riding on the sidewalks in the business districts. We discussed whether to consult the Selectmen in this matter and decided we should. Jeff, Ron, and Scott are interested in looking into the policies in other towns.

Update of recurring assaults from wayward teenagers on the bikeway. The problem seems to have dissipated but no one knows why.

Review upcoming events, including upcoming ABAC dates. Upcoming events include Town Day and the rail-trail bikeway celebration.

Open forum/general discussion. Jeff asked why there are no bike lanes in town especially on Summer Street, which is undergoing renovation. Ted suggested a good road for a bike lane pilot would be Broadway. Scott suggested Lake St., which is the next road in Arlington to be repaved. Joey suggested the Mystic Valley Parkway. Jeff also asked for a diagonal crossing lane for bicycles in Arlington Center.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:28.

*Denotes a vote was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.